

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 6, and 8 have been canceled. Amended claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, and 10, and new claims 11-20 are in this application.

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Mihara (U.S. 2004/0051960).

As previously indicated, independent claims 1, 3, 6, and 8 have been canceled and new independent claims 11-14 have been added herein. It is respectfully submitted that each of the new independent claims (from which claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, and 10 depend) is distinguishable from Mihara as applied by the Examiner. For example, new independent claim 11 recites in part the following:

"in which said plurality of lens groups include, from an object side of said zoom lens, a first lens group, a second lens group, a third lens group, a fourth lens group, and a fifth lens group,

. . . and

wherein said second lens group and said fourth lens group are movable along the optical axis, and said first lens group, said third lens group and said fifth lens group are fixed on the optical axis."
(Emphasis added.)

Accordingly, the plurality of lens groups of claim 11 includes five lens groups. Additionally, the above features of claim 11 are believed to be disclosed in the present application. For example, in this regard, reference is made to Fig. 1 of the present application and the description pertaining thereto on page 7 of the present application.

In explaining the above 102 rejection, the Examiner appears to refer to Fig. 4 of Mihara. Such Fig. 4 of Mihara appears to be associated with the optical arrangement shown in Fig. 1 of Mihara.

As clearly shown in Fig. 1 of Mihara (and as described in paragraph 0219 of Mihara), such optical arrangement of Mihara has four lens groups (i.e., G1 to G4). As such, the Fig. 1 arrangement of Mihara does not appear to have five lens groups as in claim 11. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 11 is distinguishable from Mihara as applied by the Examiner.

For reasons similar to those previously described with regard to claim 11, it is also respectfully submitted that new independent claims 12-14 are also distinguishable from Mihara as applied by the Examiner.

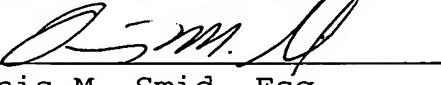
Claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, and 10 and new dependent claims 15-20 are dependent from one of independent claims 11-14. Accordingly, it is also respectfully submitted that dependent claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10 and 15-20 are distinguishable from Mihara as applied by the Examiner for at least the reasons previously described.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been overcome, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional rejections and/or objections which the Examiner might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

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